

recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I, along with my fellow Coloradans, am grateful for all that she has accomplished during her years of service.

Pam has worked as a Fire Information Officer for the last three years, but started her career with the Forest Service in Colorado in 1979. Over her years with the Forest Service, she has worked as a draftsman, landscape architect, planning assistant, visitor information specialist, and now a public affairs specialist.

In 2002, as Pam was still training, she was thrown into the role of being the first fire information officer to work on the Missionary Ridge Fire. Pam did an incredible job of providing accurate fire information and working with the hundreds of people that were evacuated from their homes during the fire. It was her interpersonal skills and empathetic feelings and responses that made the difference. Pam remained on scene for the duration, taking only minimal breaks away from the 16-hour work days experienced during a fire that burned for 39 days. She also worked on the fire information effort with the Bear Creek Wildland Fire Use fire. Pam excels at providing timely and constant flow of fire information. Residents of southwestern Colorado are kept informed of ongoing fires but more importantly, know what to expect in terms of fire potential and how they might take responsibility for protecting their health and property. Pam works very closely with the counties, State Forest Service and others to explain how private parties can mitigate fire risk, and to develop and implement plans for reducing these risks.

The San Juan Public Lands Offices have what is widely recognized as one of the very best fire information and fire education programs. Pam Wilson plays a very large role in that. Fires such as Missionary Ridge often tear a community and intergovernmental relationships apart, but the work of Pam, and of course a few others, prior to and during that fire resulted in as smooth of an operation as could be imagined. Her efforts, as much as anyone else on that fire, made it possible for firefighters and managers to focus without distractions on the safety of the public and firefighters and the protection of property.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Pam Wilson has been an invaluable resource to the San Juan Public Lands Office. It is my honor to recognize her service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Pam Wilson. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment she has given to the U.S. Forest Service and the constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for her years of dedicated service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTHA G.
SPEARS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Martha Spears and thank her for her work as Congressional Liaison with the Homeland Security Department. Her years of commitment and dedication as a public servant is certainly commendable and worthy of

recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I, along with my fellow Americans, grateful for all that she has accomplished during her years of service.

Marty Spears began her career with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in 1983 as the Legal Assistant in the office of the District Counsel, Atlanta, Georgia. Her service was interrupted while she followed her military husband to Panama in 1986, and three years later resumed her position before becoming an Immigration Inspector in 1993. She was promoted three times to the Supervisory Information Officer position in 1997 and the District Adjudications Officer in 2000 and most recently to the position of Community Relations Officer. In March 2003, when INS was abolished and three new agencies were formed that became part of Department of Homeland Security, Marty became the Community Liaison Officer under the Office of Citizenship within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. She has served as the Denver District's congressional liaison since April 2001, responding to a monthly average of 200–300 congressional inquiries including the states of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah that are also in the District.

During my tenure in the United States Congress, Martha provided exceptional service to constituents of the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado. Martha worked hard to ensure that inquiries on behalf of my constituents submitted to the Denver District were addressed in a timely and thorough manner. Martha routinely demonstrated a willingness to assist beyond the standard response, demonstrating a genuine concern for the constituent while upholding the policies of the Homeland Security Department.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Martha has been an invaluable resource to the Department of Homeland Security. It is my honor to recognize her service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Martha Spears. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment she has given to the Department of Homeland Security and constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for her years of dedicated service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GRETCHEN
MITTERER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Gretchen Mitterer and thank her for her work as a Government Liaison with the Internal Revenue Service. Her years of commitment and dedication as a public servant is certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I, along with my fellow Americans, am grateful for all that she has accomplished during her years of service.

Gretchen began her career with the IRS in January of 1986. Her attention to detail, her people skills and her professionalism have led to rapid career advancement. Gretchen has been the Colorado Governmental Liaison since January 2001. She began as a Group

Secretary and held various positions over time including: Branch Secretary, Tax Auditor, Administrative Assistant, Public Affairs Specialist and Communications Specialist.

During my tenure in the United States Congress, Gretchen provided exceptional service to constituents of the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado. Gretchen worked hard to ensure that inquiries on behalf of my constituents submitted to the IRS were addressed in a timely and thorough manner. Gretchen routinely demonstrated a willingness to assist beyond the standard response, demonstrating a genuine concern for the constituent while upholding the policies of the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Gretchen Mitterer has been an invaluable resource to the Internal Revenue Service. It is my honor to recognize her service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Gretchen. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment she has given to the IRS and constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for her years of dedicated service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE
DAWKINS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Pete Dawkins of Vail, Colorado, a truly outstanding individual. Throughout his life and his career, Pete has received many prestigious distinctions and awards as a prominent athlete, scholar and leader, but his commitment to the citizens of this country through his record of military service stands out. Pete spent many years dedicated to the service of our country and contributed tremendous leadership during his tenure. I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing the achievements of Pete Dawkins before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Pete's ability to persevere was tested at the young age of eleven, undergoing physical therapy to treat the potentially debilitating disease of polio. He not only overcame polio, but he went on to become a star running back in college at the United States Military Academy. His performance during his senior season on the field led Army to an undefeated season and he was recognized individually as the college football player of the year winning the Heisman Trophy.

After graduating near the top of his class from West Point, Pete chose to study at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, instead of pursuing an opportunity to play professional football. Pete began his service to the military after he completed his study in England. Throughout his twenty-six year tenure in the military he served in Vietnam, received his doctorate from Princeton, was selected as a White House Fellow, and ascended to the rank of Brigadier General.

Following his military service, Pete has enjoyed a successful career in the private sector. He is currently working as the vice chairman of the Citigroup Private Bank. In his spare